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Model Court Project

Two courts compete for Model Court status within USAID's Model Court Project launched today

September 22, 2021 (Chisinau). Two Moldovan courts will compete for Model Court status as part of the Model Court Project launched by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission to Moldova today. The Model Court Project will support Ungheni and Balti district courts in achieving and maintaining Model Court status by boosting efficiency, performance, and quality of services based on the International Framework for Court Excellence (IFCE) standards, and by tailoring their services to the needs of court users. The Project intends to encourage bottom-up progress and reforms on the national level by supporting two model courts to reach model court status and, later, inspire other first instance courts to replicate the achieved best practices on a national scale.

“Since Moldovan independence, the United States has provided support to make Moldova’s legal system more effective, transparent, and accountable to its citizens. Ten years ago, and not far from here, then Vice President Biden spoke of the need to fight corruption, strengthen democratic institutions, and create a judicial system that is both trusted and fair. Through the Model Court Project, we continue our partnership with Moldovan courts to create judicial centers of excellence that provide services to their communities. Rule of law is a cornerstone of democracy. Without it, a society cannot advance”, stated the U.S. Embassy Chargé d’Affaires Laura Hruby.

“The Model Court Project, which is being launched today, embraces and further develops the achievements of previous USAID projects in the justice field in Moldova, all targeting modernization and efficiency of judicial proceedings. The Model Court Project will enhance court performance and justice delivery in accordance with citizens’ expectations. In the recent elections, the people of Moldova gave a strong vote of confidence towards reformed state institutions that fulfill the needs of the people. We want to support this process of democratic transformation of courts into “model” ones in all respects: performance, efficiency, openness and trustworthy “guardians” of the rule of law”, said USAID Moldova Mission Director Scott Hocklander.”

“Improving court performance, ensuring public access to court information, strengthening communication, and digital transformation are common goals of state institutions and development partners. The Superior Council of Magistracy (SCM) is ready to provide the necessary tools to carry out all the actions set out in the Model Court Project, and together we can enhance the quality of justice in the public interest”, mentioned the Ad-interim Chair of the SCM Dorel Musteata.

The two courts were selected by a professional committee made of representatives of the Superior Council of Magistracy, Agency for Court Administration, justice sector projects and Model Court Project in the preparatory phase following an open call for participation. The selected courts stood out by presenting a clear vision on the future development of the court, relevance and a wide variety of proposed improvements, and demonstrated interest and availability of time and human resources. The Model Court Project will assist Ungheni

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and Balti pilot courts in developing and implementing quality management standards to improve their performance indicators and also help them meet court user needs by institutionalizing communication tools and platforms to consult different groups of litigants on legal and court organization issues.

The Ungheni District Court President Vasile Schiopu mentioned that the institution he represents hopes to increase the accessibility of court services and build public trust in the judiciary through Model Court Project activities. The Balti District Court Chair Dumitru Gherasim believes that court monitoring and performance improvements are essential in the context of implementing European standards in the field of justice.

The Model Court Project will also provide national-level assistance to help with IFCE institutionalization, court performance monitoring and strategic planning, judicial leadership, community engagement, a grants program, and improvements regarding the Integrated Case Management System.

The Model Court Project period of performance is January 2021 to January 2024 with a budget of 5.6 million USD.

The video recording of the event can be watched [here](#). For more information about the Project, please contact us at moldova@dexisonline.com or nciubarov@dexisonline.com.